

## James Knox Polk to Andrew Jackson, December 1, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JAMES K. POLK TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 1, 1828.

*Dear Sir,* On my way here and since my arrival, many inquiries have been made, and I have heard many conjectures as to the time you would probably set out for Washington, and the route you would travel. In one thing *all* your friends with whom I have conversed concur, and that is, that you should be here several weeks before the inauguration. Some of your friends have in conversation, suggested the propriety of changing the period of counting the votes, by a modification of the existing law, so as to enable a Committee of Congress to visit your residence and inform you officially of your election in time for you to reach Washington by the 4th of March. The suggestion merely, but no formal proposition has been made. That such a course would be respectful all agree, but many of your discreet and intelligent friends (and I think I may safely say a majority of those with [ *sic* ] whom I have conversed on the subject) think that your election being a matter of notoriety known to yourself and conceded by your political adversaries, it would be inexpedient to do so. They think that your election having taken place under peculiar circumstances and the triumph being complete, there should be as little of ceremony and parade as can properly be dispensed with; that you should come on to Washington in anticipation of the result, and that immediately on the counting of the votes be ready to receive the official communication through a committee of Congress. If there was no other objection, it is apprehended that any attempt now to change the existing law might and probably would in the present excited state of parties elicit a discussion (perhaps a protracted one) which might result in no good to the cause which we have so long laboured to sustain. I do not

## Library of Congress

think it probable therefore, that any change will be made in the existing law. The votes will be counted on the second Wednesday in February, and by that time your friends will expect you here, or at all events in convenient distance to receive the official notice of your election. If however contrary to my present impressions a different course should be resolved on, it will be within a very few days, and you shall be immediately advised of it.

I have given you according to my promise when last at the Hermitage, the views of your friends here, as far as I have ascertained them. I will write you again at furthest in a week and can then speak with positive certainty. When you have come to a determination, your friends here would be gratified to know when you will leave home and the route you will travel. . . . .